



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventors: Raymond W. Ellis, et al.

SC/Serial No.: 9/899,833

Confirm. No.: 9671

Filed: July 5, 2001

Title: AUTOMATED TOOL MANAGEMENT IN  
A MULTI-PROTOCOL ENVIRONMENT

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 2152

Examiner:

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Signature Date: August 19, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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AUG 26 2004

Technology Center 2100

Box: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendment be entered in the above-identified patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 13 of this paper.

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